

# The L O V E R.

By MARMADUKE MYRTLE, Gent.

*Secretum iter*—

Hor.

Thursday, April 15. 1714.

**T**HE Business of Love alters in every Family in *England*, and I must confess I did not sufficiently weigh the great Perplexity that I should fall into, from the vast Variety of Cases, when I undertook my present Province. The Author of the following Letters is in very whimsical Circumstances, which will be best represented by his Epistles.

S I R,

**A**S I am about thirty, and of such a round untroubled Countenance as may make me appear not so much, I must complain to you of a general Calamity that obstructs or suspends the Advancement of the younger Men in the Pursuit of their Fortune. I now make Love to the Daughter of a Man of Business, who is so fantastical as to threaten to Marry the young Lady to a Contemporary of his own, I mean one of his own Years. He says no young Man can be good for any thing but filling an House full of Children, without being Wife enough to know how to provide for them. Now as I am to succeed in Love, as I can argue my Father-in-Law into an Opinion of my Ability for Business, give me leave to think it not Foreign to your Design, to Print my Thoughts concerning the Prejudices which Men in one Stage of Life have to those in another. The utmost Inconveniences are owing to the Difficulty we meet with in being admitted into the Society of Men in Years, and adding thereby the early Knowledge of Men and Business to that of Books, for the reciprocal Improvement of each other. One of Fifty as naturally imagines the same Insufficiency in one of Thirty, as he of Thirty does in one of Fifteen, and each Age is thus left to instruct it self by the natural Course of its own Reflection and Experience. I am apt to think, that before Thirty a Man's natural and acquired Parts are at that Strength, as, with a little Experience, to enable him, (if ever he can be enabled) to acquit himself well in any Business or Conversation he shall be admitted into. As to the Objection, that those that have not been used to Business are consequently unfit for it, it might have been made one time or other against all Men that ever were born; and is so general a one, that it is none at all. Besides, he that knew Men the best that ever any one did, says that *Wisdom cometh by Opportunity of Leisure, and he that hath little Business shall be* (Price Two Pence.)

*come Wise*; and my Lord Bacon observes, that those Governments have been always the most happy which have been administered by such as have spent part of their Life in Books and Leisure, and instances the Governments of *Pius Quintus* and *Sextus Quintus* about his own time, who tho' they were esteemed but Pedantical Friars, proceeded upon truer Principles of State, than those who had had their Education in Affairs of State, and Courts of Princes. If this Rule holds in the dispatch of the most perplex'd Matters, as of Publick Politicks, it must of necessity in that of the common Divisions of Business, which every body knows are directed by Form, and require rather Diligence and Honesty, than great Ability in the Execution.

A good Judgment will not only supply, but go beyond Experience; for the latter is only a Knowledge that directs us in the Dispatch of Matters future, from the Consideration of Matters past of the same Nature; but the former is a perpetual and equal Direction in every thing that can happen, and does not follow, but makes the Precedent that guides the other.

This Everlasting Prejudice of the Old against the Young, heightens the natural Disposition of Youth to Pleasure, when they find themselves adjudged incapable of Business. Those among 'em therefore whose Circumstances and way of Thinking will allow 'em such Freedom, plunge themselves in all sensual Gratifications. Others of 'em, of a more regulated Turn of Thought, seek the Entertainment of Books and Contemplation, and are buried in these Pleasures. These Pursuits, during our middle Age, strengthen the Love of Retirement in the Sober Man, and make it necessary to the Libertine. They gain Philosophy enough by this time to be convinced 'tis their Interest to have as little Ambition as may be, and considering rather how much less they need to live happily, than how much more, can't conceive why they should trouble themselves about the raising a Fortune, which in the Pursuit must lessen their present Enjoyment, and in the Purchase cannot enlarge it.

I confess the impious and impertinent way of Life and Conversation of Youth in general, exposes them to the just Disesteem of their Elders, but where the contrary is found among any of them



them It should be the more particular Recommendation to their Patronage. There are some Observations, I have by Chance met with, so much in Favour of young Men, that I cannot suppress them. As Sincerity is the chief Recommendation both in publick and private Matters, it is observed, that the Young are more sincere in the dispatch of Business, and Professions of Friendship, than those that are more advanced in Years: For they either prefer publick Reputation to private Advantage, or believe it the only way to it. They are generally well-natur'd, as having not been acquainted with much Malice, or sower'd with Disappointment. The less disposed to Pride or Avarice, as they have neither wanted or abounded. They are unpractis'd in the ways of Flattery and Dissimulation, and think others practise it as little as themselves. This arises from their Boldness, as having not been yet humbled by the Chances of Life, and their Credulity, as having not yet been often deceiv'd.

I shall conclude by saying, 'tis very hard, upon us young Fellows, that we are not to be trusted in Business and Conversation with those in Years, till due Age, together with its Consequences ill Health and ill Humour, hath mark'd us with a faded Cheek, a hollow Eye, a busie ruminating Forehead, and in short rendered us less capable of serving and pleasing them, than we were when we were thought unable to do either. I beg your Pardon for so many serious Reflections, and your leave to add to them a Love-Letter to the Father, enclosed in one to the Daughter, and addressed to her for his perusal.

I am, S I R,

Your most Humble Servant.

Madam,

MY Life is wrapped up in you. I disrelish every Conversation, wherein there is not some mention made of you; whenever you are named I hear you commended, and that gives ease to the Torment I am in, while I am forced to smother the Warmth of my Affection towards you. You know your Father is not displeased that I Love you; but I am, I know not how, to prefer your Interests to yourself. But all the Business of the World is Impertinence, and all its Riches Vexation, in comparison of the Joy there is in being understood,

Madam,

Your most Faithful,

Most Devoted,

Humble Servant.

P. S. When your Father asks whether I have writ. hide this, and show him the enclosed. Look displeased, and he will plead for me.

Madam,

I Have a great Respect for you, but must beg you would not take it amiss, if I can reckon no Woman a Beauty whose Father's Favour does not add to her other Qualifications. He is as I am, a Man of Business, and I doubt not but he will acquaint you, that Business is to be minded; your Declaration, joined with his in my Favour, will make me more frequent at your House, but till I know what I have to trust to, I do not think

it is proper for me to intrude upon your Time and lose my own.

I am, Madam,

Your most humble Servant.

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